



WHAT IS A NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER

LDRSHIP



I will tell you that it means you are the heart and soul of the Army. You are the heart because you will determine the pulse, and the soul because you represent and demand the Soldier qualities of dedication, discipline, and the sense of responsibility. Noncommissioned Officers are the rock upon which this Army is built. We are the leaders, trainers, standard bearers, and disciplinarians who have made the Army what it is today and what it will continue to be.



As a Noncommissioned Officer your leadership and the example you set for the Soldiers, as well as the standards you ask them to adhere to, are things they will never forget. The key to your success in the Army of tomorrow will be the same as it is today: Uncompromising professionalism. Professionalism that has its roots in the qualities of competence, responsibility, and commitment.

Responsibility and being responsible is part of every leadership position in the Army. It is a quality that you must continue to develop and support at all levels. You must build on the past, be responsible for the present, and also shape the future.



The Army is a great place to serve as an NCO because we have a standard for everything, Dress, Discipline, Maintenance, and Training. The only time we get into difficulty as leaders is when we do not know what the standard is or we do not enforce the standard.



Your duty as an NCO and leader is to uphold the standards. The first time your Soldiers fail to meet the standard take corrective action. Do not sit back and wait. If you do nothing you allow a Soldier to establish a lower standard for themselves and the organization.

Your Soldiers have a desire to serve. No one joins the Army to fail. As an NCO you must capitalize on the pride that grows from commitment to selfless service. In meeting challenges, your ability to inspire Soldiers and do so selflessly is the mark of a professional NCO. As an NCO one of the most important things you do is develop your Soldiers to be leaders for the future.



We start preparing to be an NCO the first day we put on the Army uniform. You must train, teach, and develop your Soldiers. You must also broaden your competence through self-development. You will not get everything from our schools or while on the job. You must work on your own. This requires self-discipline and sacrifice; but the pay off to you, your Soldiers, and the Army will be great.



I have given you some thoughts about being a successful and professional Noncommissioned Officer. When you leave here today you will go back to your units and take charge of excellent Soldiers. Take immediate steps to make them even better. As Noncommissioned Officers and leaders we must be **Accountable for Soldiers, Involved with Soldiers, Responsible for Soldiers.**

No Noncommissioned Officer or Soldier is perfect, but towards perfection we must always aim.



From the first day you stepped into uniform, until the day you hang it away, you must always strive to better yourself, your Soldiers, your unit, and the Army.



You are charged with making the phrase, "The Noncommissioned Officer is the backbone of the Army," a reality.

"Iron Soldiers"



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